

Valle Crucis News

Mrs. J. M. Shull is slowly recovering from pneumonia, but has been removed to the home of Dr. R. O. Glenn at Mountain City, Tenn., for further treatment.

Mr. Calvin Wentz spent Friday and Saturday in Charlotte on business.

The Community Club of Valle Crucis held a meeting Thursday night, December 4, at the Valle Crucis school for girls and it was decided to give all boys who are in the present war and all needy families in the vicinity of Valle Crucis a Christmas box.

Messrs. Calvin Wentz and Paul Robertson entertained a few friends Saturday night at a bridge supper. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Oisen, Messrs. Winnie Thornberg, Gladys Taylor, Wilma Baird, Dotty Barnette, Helen Underdown, Kathleen Underdown, Vanda Whicker, Messrs. Frank Taylor, Howard Walker and B. H. Merrimon.

Mrs. J. C. Moore of Lenoir, is visiting relatives in the valley.

There will be a Christmas pageant at the Valle Crucis School for Girls on Tuesday night, December 16. The public is cordially invited. Music will be Handel's Messiah.

Rev. R. E. Gribbin held services at Holy Cross Episcopal church Sunday morning.

FARM INCOME IN STATE IS UP 37 PER CENT

Raleigh, Nov. 30.—North Carolina farmers received 37 per cent more cash income from farm marketings for the first eight months of this year than during the similar 1940 period, Russell P. Handy, junior statistician of the state department of agriculture, reported today.

Tar Heel farmers, for the first eight months (January to August, inclusive) of 1941, have received an estimated \$89,173,000 from farm marketings, compared to \$65,154,000 received during the corresponding 1940 period, Handy said. "The income from government payments amounted to \$13,596,000, compared to \$10,471,000 for the same period of last year."

Flag days this year have raised over \$200,000 for the 353 branches of Britain's Lifeboat Institution. \$55,000 more than in 1940.

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Gaily Wrapped Gifts Promote Christmas Spirit

Festive wrappings make the difference between a gift for Christmas and something that might turn up at any time of the year. They express the glamour of the season, the spirit of Christmas giving and the extra measure of good cheer.

Those who wait till the last minute to buy their presents find it best to depend upon bright and gay wrapping papers and glittering ribbon. If the patterns of these papers are selected thoughtfully, something individual can be found for each gift.

Others who obtain their presents a little in advance of Christmas will have time to wrap each gift as a personal greeting in itself. There are a number of ways to give each gift wrapping a different personality.

DEMURE—A square box wrapped in pink foil paper with a round lace paper doilie pasted on the top, and in the center of the doilie a bouquet of flower stickers.

YOUNG—For a big box wrap in heavy white paper, then cut out green paper in Christmas tree shape and trim it lavishly with Christmas seals.

SPANGLED—Wrap a square box in blue foil paper and spangle it all over with silver stars.

FROSTY—Shiny green wrapping paper spattered with white paper snowflakes will have a wintry glitter.

JOLLY—For the young fry, a gift of handkerchiefs is made doubly interesting if they're rolled up and tied around the middle with white yarn arms, a little broom and a black cardboard hat—to look like a snow-man.

RIPE—Wrap in white paper, tied with green ribbon and, instead of a bow, a bunch of bright cherries from the five-and-ten.

FRIVOLOUS—Wrap the package in green foil paper, tie with white satin ribbon and a "bouquet" of small white plumes.

MUSICAL—Wrap with brilliant blue foil paper, tie with silver ribbon with a cascade of little jingle bells instead of a bow.

A GARDENER'S GIFT—Wrap in flowered paper, tie with green ribbon and add a "bouquet" made of miniature gardening tools.

DROP

The general level of prices received by farmers for agricultural commodities on November 15 declined four points from a month earlier, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Far up in the Alpine mountains nestled the town of Oberndorf. Here in 1818, lived a devout young Austrian priest, Josef Mohr. His closest friend, Franz Gruber, schoolmaster and organist, lived in the little village of Arnsdorf, a short distance away. In such a setting, seldom disturbed by the outside world, the two friends were destined to give mankind the most beautiful of all Christmas hymns.

It was Christmas eve night. In his lonely quarters, Mohr wondered how he might bring a ringing message to his congregation on the morrow. As he stood by the window, watching the falling snow, the village bell pealed out twelve strokes, Christmas Day! He recalled a remark of his friend, Gruber, that the real Christmas song was yet to be written. He had promised Gruber he would write that song.

It was bitter cold, clutching at all life on the snow-bound heights. Lost in reverie, Mohr suddenly realized someone was knocking. Opening the door, he saw a woman all but exhausted. She had come to tell him of the birth of a child in a wood chopper's cabin "beyond the third great hill," and would he come and bless the child and mother? Undaunted by the blizzard now raging, he set out.

Finally the cabin was sighted. As Mohr entered the humble abode, he paused. Not a word was spoken. The baby slept, the mother smiled bravely, and the father's eyes were alight with a new joy. A strange radiance seemed to fill the room, as if in answer to a single thought—the thought of another crib, even humbler, in Bethlehem long ago.

When the young priest had given his blessing, he hurried back over the mountains to his home. The storm had passed now, and lifting his eyes to the starlit heavens, he murmured, "Silent Night, Holy Night." In such a mood, and inspired by the visit to the isolated cabin, Josef Mohr wrote the words to the beloved hymn.

On that Christmas morning, Mohr took the manuscript to the home of the teacher-organist. As Gruber read the lines, he exclaimed: "Pastor, this is the song! God be praised!"

Because the church organ was broken, Gruber sat before the family spinet, an old type of harpsichord. As he read Mohr's lines, he wrote the score, blending words and music into an immortal composition.

That night, after Mohr had delivered his sermon, he and Gruber sang their song to an audience which sat spellbound until the last note died away. More than a year later the organ was repaired and Gruber, for the first time, sang the song to its accompaniment. When the repairman returned to his own village, he carried a copy of the song with him. From this point it eventually spread over most of the world.

Now, as then, "Silent Night, Holy Night" seems intended as a prayer for harmony, love, and understanding among all nations.

Dr. King Endorses Christmas Seal Drive

In discussing the sale of Christmas seals, Dr. Robert R. King, district health officer, had this to say: "The sale of the tubercular seals is now in progress and should be supported by all of the citizens of Watauga county. This is a sale designed to collect money for the work of preventing the spread of tuberculosis, a disease that is still too prevalent in our land and yet one that can be prevented by due care and the education of our people to take the necessary precautions.

"Every dollar invested in these seals means more progress towards the care and education of those who have been exposed or attacked. Tuberculosis is a disease that is most dangerous to our young adults, the most productive age group of any community. Let us all respond to this call to help ourselves and those more needy ones who have already been stricken.

"Have you sent in your contribution? Do it now, won't you? Remember that we can help the other fellow now, but it may be our turn to be helped next time. Send in your dollar! More if you care to."

Russia is the only great country, aside from the United States, which is self-sufficient in oil.

Lincoln's Letter Sold for \$14,980

Philadelphia, Pa.—President Lincoln's letter to General Joseph Hooker to assume command of the Potomac brought \$14,980 at an auction disposing of documents in the collection of the late Colonel Louis J. Kolb.

A copy of the Star Spangled Banner, penned and signed by Francis Scott Key, brought \$7,750.

Alfred W. Stern of Chicago, bought the Lincoln letter. In it, Lincoln said:

"I have heard, in such a way as I believe it, of your recent saying that both the army and the government needs a dictator. Of course, it was not for this, but in spite of it, that I have given you the command."

Charles A. Lindbergh's letter ask-

ing newspapermen not to interfere in attempts to establish contact with his baby's abductor, was sold to F. G. Sweet of New York, for \$20.

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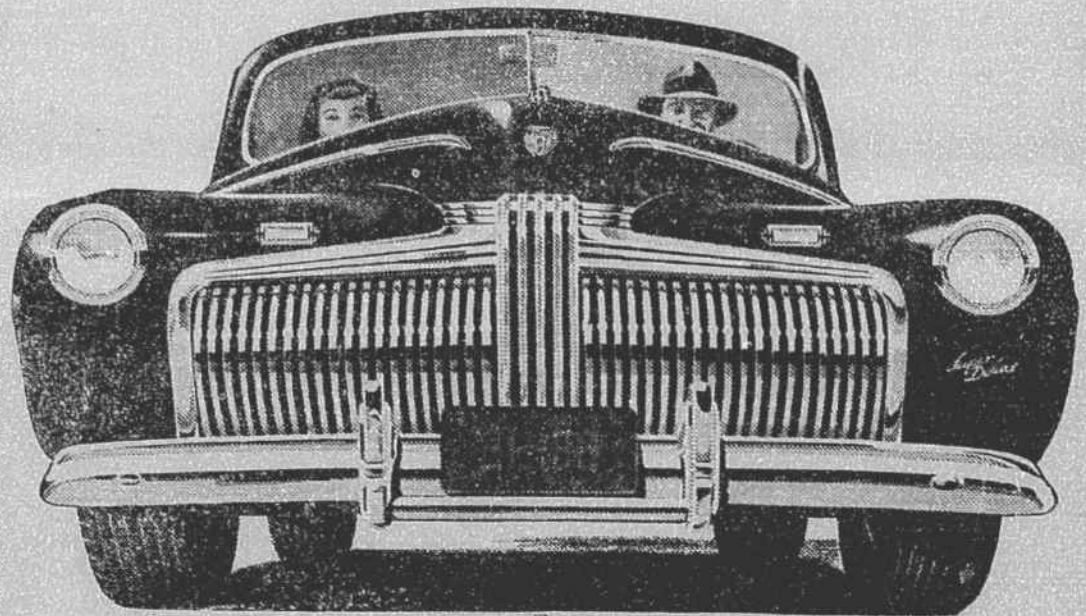
Announcement!

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